George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parent & Carers,

Just Talk App – A Reminder for Parents

As children become increasingly confident using apps, games and online platforms, we would like to remind families of the importance of knowing what children are accessing online and who they are communicating with.

The Just Talk app provides opportunities for children to talk about their feelings and wellbeing, and we encourage children to use it positively and safely. As with any online platform, it is important that children understand how to use online spaces responsibly and respectfully.

We ask parents and carers to:

Know what your child is accessing online and check that apps and platforms are age-appropriate.

Talk regularly with your child about who they are communicating with online and what they are talking about.

Check chat and messaging features where these are available, to ensure children are treating one another with kindness and respect.

Remind children that they should never share personal information, photographs or passwords online.

Encourage children to tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe.

Make sure children know how to report and block anyone who behaves inappropriately or makes them feel unsafe online.

Remind children that they should never feel pressured to respond to messages or conversations that make them uncomfortable.

At George White Junior School, we want our children to feel confident, responsible and safe both in school and online. Regular conversations at home can make a real difference in helping children make positive choices and know what to do when something doesn't feel right.

SEND Cafés at GWJS

George White Junior School is delighted to invite parents and carers to two informative SEND cafés taking place over the coming weeks.

Behaviour Support Café

24 November at 9:00am

Our School and Community Team will be leading a session focused on supporting children whose behaviours may be challenging or harmful. The café will provide practical advice, strategies, and opportunities for discussion.

Dyslexia Support Café

9 December at 9:00am

George White is proud to hold the **Dyslexia Quality Mark**. This café will explore how we support dyslexic learners, as well as pupils who may have literacy, language-processing, or other related learning needs. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to learn more about the approaches and interventions used within school.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)** or **Amanda Derer**.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Christmas Fair 2026



We are pleased to announce our Christmas Fair is taking place on Thursday 10th December from 3.30pm. We are renting stall tables at £5 per table and all businesses are welcome. Please contact the school office if you wish to hire a table. To Support our Christmas Fair, we are holding a Non-School Uniform Day on Friday 4th December. This is an opportunity for children to come to school in Non-school uniform and pay in Chocolate or donate a prize to go towards our raffle/tombola, these can be biscuits, soap, bottle of wine, bubble bath, toys, games, puzzles, soft toys and vouchers

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

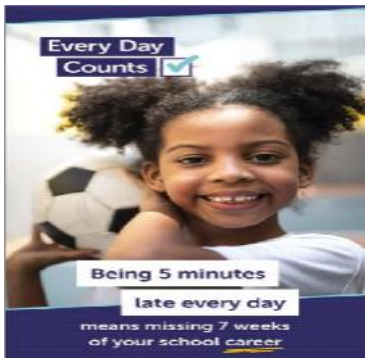
Well-done to 6W & 5W this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 89%
6W: 96%
5W: 96%
5M: 88%
4T: 91%
4B: 90%
3C: 94%
3P: 95%

Whole school attendance for this week: 92%

School Target: 96%

Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020

CCTV will only be operating overnight.



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

This week has been yet another busy week in year 3! We have been planning and writing our final paragraph for our character description in English. We've been working incredibly hard on using wonderful adjectives in our expanded noun phrases to improve our writing. We have now finished our addition and subtraction unit in Maths and we are now column addition and subtraction wizards! We can't wait to start practicing our multiplication and division skills next week.





Year 4

What another fantastic week we've had here in Year 4! We have enjoyed some wonderful experiences this week, which have helped to enrich our learning and develop new skills. On Wednesday afternoon, we were fortunate to take part in a first aid training session. We learnt how to perform CPR and were shown how to use a defibrillator. Following a demonstration, we had the opportunity to put our new knowledge into practice using resuscitation dolls. It was a fantastic hands-on experience, and everyone showed great enthusiasm. On Thursday afternoon, we welcomed a local artist into school, who delivered portrait-drawing workshops to both classes. The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their artistic skills, learning new techniques, and gaining inspiration from a talented member of our local community. We have certainly had a busy and exciting week! We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

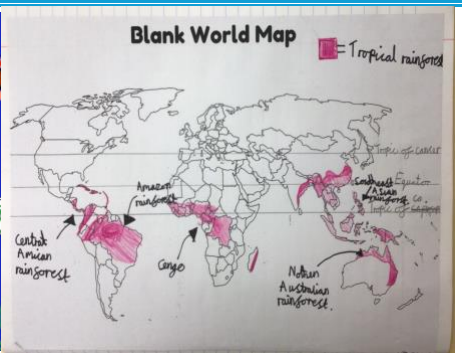


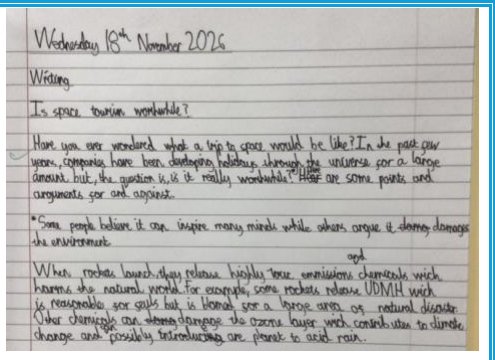


Year 5

We have had another jam-packed week of learning in Year 5, and we are so impressed with the enthusiasm and effort we have seen from the children across the year group. In English, we have been writing our Space Tourism discussion, thinking about how we can use evidence to support our points and create a balanced argument. We've been so impressed with the use of formal language and cohesive devices we have seen. Our space topic has continued in Science as we explored how long it takes for each planet in our Solar System to orbit the sun. We can't wait to bring our learning to life through our virtual reality experience next Friday! We wanted to share another incredible piece of home learning from Dotty, an piece inspired by the digital artist Morysetta - Fantastic!






Wednesday 13th November 2024

Writing

Is space tourism worthwhile?

Have you ever wondered what a trip to space would be like? In the past few years, companies have been developing holidays through the universe for a large amount but, the question is, is it really worthwhile? Here are some points and arguments for and against.

*Some people believe it can inspire many minds while others argue it damages the environment.

and

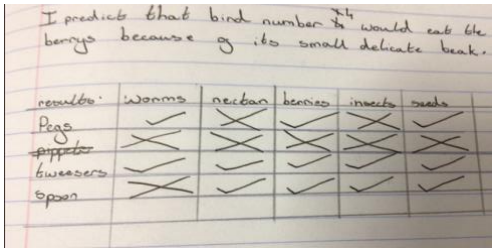
When rockets launch they release highly toxic emissions chemicals which harms the natural world for example, some rockets release UDMH which is responsible for acid but is blamed for a large area of natural disaster. Other chemicals are also damages the ozone layer which contributes to climate change and possibly introduces are prone to acid rain.

Year 6

This week we have completed our second round of SATs testing in Year 6. Our children have worked incredibly hard, shown flexibility and resilience to progress in their learning. In DT, we have been turning our hands to different stitches in order to apply these to our Ancient Islamic design. Our science was an interactive game to help us understand how the same species can adapt in different ways. We used different tools to simulate sparrow beaks! In PE we are continuing to build our gymnastics skills and choreograph these with added apparatus.



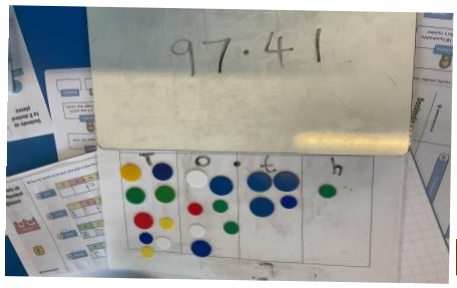


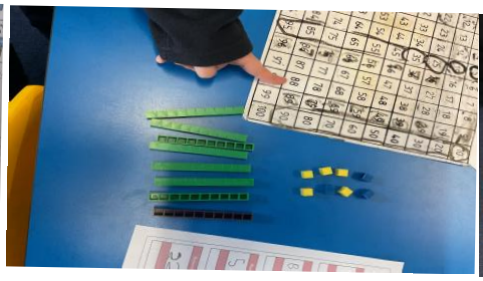

I predict that bird number 4 would eat the berrys because of its small delicate beak.

results:	worms	nectar	berries	insects	seeds
Pegs	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
~~pipette~~	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
tweezers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
spoon	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

SRB

In the SRB, children work at their level to develop skills. In maths, we review the basics before moving on. Children recognise and represent numbers, first to 20, then to 100 and onwards until we move onto place value of decimal numbers. Concrete resources such as dienes and place value charts help with understanding how numbers are made up.







Dates for the Diary 2026/2027

Tuesday 24th November	Parent Cafe – Supporting Behaviour at GWJS – 8.50am
Thursday 26th November	Open Classrooms for all parents and carers from 3:20pm
Friday 27th November	VR Experience for Year 5
Friday 4th December	Non School Uniform – Pay in chocolate or donate a prize to go towards our raffle/tombola, these can be biscuits, soap, bottle of wine, bubble bath, toys, games, puzzles, soft toys and vouchers.
Wednesday 9th December	Parent cafe – supporting dyslexia at GWJS – 8:50am
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day and whole school Christmas lunch
Thursday 10th December	GWJS Christmas Fayre from 3:30pm
Wednesday 16th December	Carols round the Tree Year 3 & 5 Performance at 9.15am Year 4 & 6 Performance at 2.30pm
Friday 18th December	End of Term at 3:20pm
Tuesday 5th January	Start of the Spring Term from 8.30am

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.



SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids

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